
Remarks

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.115, the Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments. No new matter has been added.

The amendments to the specification are to provide clarity and consistency in reference to the cooperating fastener component. Additional amendments to the specification are to correct references to figures. These amendments merely conform the identified text to other parts of the specification.

The amendments to claims 32, 33, 36, 37 and 41 correct missing antecedent basis.

Please charge any prosecutorial fees which are due to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875.

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I, Catherine E. Wolf, hereby certify that on June 7, 2002, this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

By: 

Catherine E. Wolf

Marked-Up Version of the Specification Amendments

Amendments made to the paragraph starting on page 5, line 32 are as follows:

In an aspect of the invention, both the first wing and the second wing may include the first fastener component and the [second] cooperating fastener component. In another aspect of the invention, at least one wing includes perforation lines adjacent its fixed end to provide quick removal of the napkin by tearing the wing along the perforation lines.

Amendments made to the paragraph starting on page 7, line 27 are as follows:

With reference to the Figures, an article, such as a sanitary napkin 10 illustrated in FIGS. 1A-E (or a disposable diaper 10' illustrated in FIGS. 2A-B) has a lengthwise, longitudinal direction 26, a lateral cross-direction 24, and a longitudinally extending medial line 40. The article includes a first article portion, a second article portion and at least one fastener 36 for securing the first article portion to the second article portion. Such securement can, for example, be configured to thereby hold the article on a wearer. The fastener desirably includes at least one, first fastener component 70 attached to an appointed section of the first (or second) article portion, and a cooperating[, second] fastener component 72 attached to the second (or first) article portion. The first fastener component 70 includes an engagement section having a first plurality of engagement members 56. Each engagement member 56 has a stem portion 58 with a distal end region 44, and has at least one securement element 60 disposed at its corresponding distal end region. The plurality of engagement members has an arrangement pattern of their securement elements. It is contemplated that multiple pluralities of engagement members, each with different arrangement pattern of their securement elements, may be used.

Amendments made to the paragraph starting on page 9, line 25 are as follows:

[FIG. 1 is an illustration] FIGS. 1A-E are illustrations of an exemplary sanitary napkin with fasteners 36 in the form of wings or flaps. At least one first fastener component 70 is attached to the wing 36 and at least one cooperating fastener component 72 is attached to the opposite wing 36. In some embodiments of the invention, the first fastener component 70 and the cooperating fastener component 72 may be attached to each wing such that the wings may be fastened without concern for overlapping the wings in any particular order. In other yet embodiments, the wing may be formed partially or entirely of the cooperating fastener component 72. FIG. [1A] 1C is an illustration of the sanitary napkin with its wings 36 or flaps secured around an undergarment or panty "P". The arrows

labeled "A" generally represent the attachment direction. The arrows labeled "O" generally represent the direction that is orthogonal to the attachment direction. It should be understood that this orthogonal direction is thought to be generally or substantially along or in the plane of the article although in some specific cases, it include a minor Z-direction component.

Amendments made to the paragraph starting on page 10, line 25 are as follows:

The following is a brief description of the orientation direction with respect to the lengthwise, longitudinal direction 26 and the lateral cross-wise direction depicted in [FIG. 1] FIGS. 1A, 1D and 1D'. In one exemplary sanitary napkin, the orienting the axis of maximal engagement of the first fastener component in the attachment direction meant orienting the first fastener component so its axis of maximal engagement was in the cross-machine direction or the lateral cross-direction 24 shown in [FIG. 1] FIGS. 1A, 1D and 1D'. Thus, for that sanitary napkin, the orienting the axis of maximal engagement of the first fastener component generally orthogonal to the attachment direction meant orienting the first fastener component so its axis of maximal engagement was in the machine direction or the lengthwise, longitudinal direction 26 shown in [FIG. 1] FIGS. 1A, 1D and 1D'.

Amendments made to the paragraph starting on page 11, line 1 are as follows:

FIG. 1D shows an embodiment of the invention in which a first fastener component 70 is affixed to a wing or flap 36 and a [second] cooperating fastener component 72 is affixed or integral with a corresponding wing or flap 36. FIG 1D' illustrates an embodiment in which a first fastener component is affixed to each wing or flap 36 and a [second] cooperating fastener component is present on each wing or flap 36 as well. FIG. 1E illustrates the embodiment in FIG. 1D' such that the first fastener components 70 and the [second] cooperating fastener components 72 on each flap or wing 36 are more visible. More particularly, FIG. 1E shows a pair of wings or flaps 36 each having a first fastener component 70 affixed to the wing so as to face the baffle or peel strip of an article as well as a [second] cooperating fastener component 72 affixed to or integral with wing so as to face the opposite side of the wing (i.e., the side of the wing facing away from the baffle or peel strip).

Amendments made to the paragraph starting on page 19, line 23 are as follows:

A configuration which employs a selectively releasable, interengaging mechanical fastening system can, for example, locate the first fastener component on at least the appointed mating or securing surface of the tab, flap or wing 36, and can locate the cooperating[, second] fastener component on the appointed engagement surface of the appointed tab, flap or wing 36. For example,

with the representatively shown hook-and-loop fastener, the fastening component which is attached to the appointed mating or securing surface of a fastener tab 36 may include a hook type of mechanical engagement element, and the complementary fastening component, which is operably joined and attached to the appointed surface of a fastener tab 36 can include a loop type of fastening element.

Amendments made to the paragraph starting on page 23, line 28 are as follows:

In the various configurations of the invention, the engagement force between the selected first fastener component and its appointed and cooperating [second] fastener component should be large enough and durable enough to provide an adequate securement of the article on the wearer during use. In particular arrangements, especially where there are sufficiently high levels of engagement shear force provided by the fastening system, the fastening engagement may provide a peel force value of not less than a minimum of about 40 grams-force (gmf) per inch of the "width" of engagement between the first and [second] cooperating fastener components. In further arrangements, the fastening engagement may provide a peel force value of not less than about 100 gmf/inch to provide improved advantages. In desired configurations, the fastening engagement may provide a peel force value of not less than about 200 gmf per inch of the "width" of engagement between the first and [second] cooperating fastener components . Alternatively, the peel force is not less than about 300 gmf/inch, and optionally is not less than about 400 gmf/inch to further provide improved benefits. In other aspects, the peel force is not more than about 1,200 gmf/inch. Alternatively, the peel force is not more than about 800 gmf/inch, and optionally is not more than about 600 gmf/inch to provide improved performance.

Amendments made to the paragraph starting on page 24, line 11 are as follows:

The engagement force between the selected first fastener component and its appointed and cooperating [second] fastener component may additionally provide a shear force value of not less than about 400 gmf per square inch of the area of engagement between the first and [second] cooperating fastener components. Alternatively, the shear force is not less than about 1,000 gmf/in², and optionally, is not less than about 1,700 gmf/in². In further aspects, the shear force can be up to about 4,400 gmf/in², or more. Alternatively, the shear force is not more than about 3,900 gmf/in², and optionally is not more than about 3,500 gmf/in² to provide improved performance.

Marked-Up Version of the Claim Amendments

32. [amended] The sanitary napkin of claim 31, wherein the first wing comprises the first fastener component and the [second] cooperating fastener component.

33. [amended] The sanitary napkin of claim 32, wherein the [second] cooperating fastener component is a nonwoven loop material.

36. [amended] The sanitary napkin of claim 35, wherein the second wing comprises the first fastener component and the [second] cooperating fastener component.

37. [amended] The sanitary napkin of claim 36, wherein the [second] cooperating fastener component is a nonwoven loop material.

41. [amended] The sanitary napkin of claim 39, wherein the [second] cooperating fastener component is a nonwoven loop material.